Foreign exchange outgo on VCR,VCP etc.

3614. SHRIMATI SATYA BAHIN:
SHRI THOMAS KUTHIRAVATTOM:
SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU:
DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the average foreign exchange outgo per piece on VCR, VCP, CTV and 36|51 CMB & W, TV;

(b) what is the excise duty on each of the above items;

(c) whether the variations in excise duty is in harmony with foreign exchange outgo for the importance of each item to the common man for mass communication; and

(d) how do Government propose to correct the imbalances|disharmonies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) The average foreign exchange outgo expressed as a percentage of the exfactory price in the case of VCR, VCP, Colour TV and Black and White TV is estimated to be as under:

VCR/VCP	40%
Colour TV (51 cm)	25%
Black and White TV	5%

(b) The excise duty on each of the above items is given below.

	Rs.
(1) VCR	2,100
(2) VCP	1,575
(3) Colour TV of screen size not exceeding 36 c	2,000
(4) Colour TV of screen size not exceeding 36 cm	
) without remote control facility n- picture type)	2,250
with remote control facility (other than picture-in-picture type)	2,500
(iii) picture-in-picture type with or without remote control facility	4,000
(5) Black and White TV	
(i) Screen size not exceeding 36 cm	Nil
(ii) Screen size exceeding 36 cm	500

In addition special excise duty at the rate of 5 per cent of the basic excise duty is also leviable.

(c) and (d) Excise duty is fixed keeping in view revenue and other considerations such as the state of industrial production in the item consumption pattern and foreign exchange outgo.

Birth rate of various communities

3615. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what were the birth rates of Hindus, Muslims, Christians and Sikhs in India in 1978-79 and in 1988-89;

(b) what is the increase in population in the last ten years among Hindus Muslims, Christians and Sikhs; and

(c) what measures are proposed to be taken to check the birth rate among the various communities in India?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) The data relating to the birth rates for 1978-79 and 1988-89 are not available.

(b) The increase in population in the last ten years among Hindus, Muslims, Christians and Sikhs is not available.

(c) To keep the population growth in the country within the manageable limits, we have a well defined strategy which lays emphasis on improving quality of services, enhancing child survival rates through Universal Immunisation Programme, intensifying Population education, enhancing community participation, adopting improved communication approaches and involving Voluntary organisations. Besides, reinforcement of training and re-

training of personnel at the grass-root level, establishing and strengthening linkages with related development programmes like female literacy and improvement of women's status and adopting of area intensive approach are some of the initiatives being considered as part of the Eighth Plan strategy.

Code of conduct for ministers

3616. SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a Code of Conduct for Ministers;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to revise the Code of Conduct;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what is the machinery for implementing and monitoring the code?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) to (e) A copy of the Code of Conduct for Ministers is enclosed as Statement (*See* below). No revised Code of Conduct has been issued so far.

Statement

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA/BHARAT SARKAR MINISTRY OF HMOE AFFAIRS/GRIH MANTRALAYA

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MINISTERS
(Both Central and State)

In addition to the observance of the provisions of the Constitution, the Representation of the People Act, 1951, and any other law for the time being in force, a person, before taking office as a Minister, shall;

(a) disclose to the Prime Minister, or the Chief Minister, as the case may be, details of the assets and liabilities, and of business interests of himself and of members of his family. The details to be disclosed shall consist of particulars of all immovable property and the total approximate value of (i) shares and debentures, (ii) cash holdings and (iii) jewellery;

(b) sever all connections, short of divesting himself of the ownership, with the conduct and management of any business in which he was interested before his appointment as Minister; and

(c) with regard to a busines concern which supplies goods or services to the Government concerned or to undertakeings of that Government (excepting in the usual course of trade or business and at standard or market rates) or whose business primarily depends on licences, permits, quotas, leases, etc., received or to be received from the Government concerned divest himself of all his interests in the said business and also of the management thereof.

Provided, however, that he may transfer in the case of (b) his interest in the management, and in the case of (c) both ownership and management, to any adult member of his family or adult relative, other than his wife (or husband, as the case may be), who was prior to his appointment as Minister associated with the conduct or management or ownership of the said business. The question of divesting himself of his interest would not arise in case of holding of shares in public limited companies except where the Prime Minister, or the Chief Minister, as the case may be, consider that the nature or extent of his holding is such that it is likely to embarrass him in the discharge of his official duties.

2. After taking office, and so long as he remains in office, the Minister shall—

(a) furnish anually by the 31st March to the Prime Minister, or the Chief Minister, as the case may be, a declaration regarding his asset and liabilities;

(c) refrain from buying from or selling to the Government any immovable property except where such property is compulsorily acquired by the Government in usual course;

(c) refrain from starting, or joining, any business;